

REMARKS

By this amendment, the non-elected method claims 21-29 have been canceled, and claims 30-36 has been added in response to the restriction requirement.

Applicants hereby elect the Group I invention, claims 1-12. Further, Applicants elect the species of claims 2 and 3. Claims 1-3 and 6-12 are subject to examination on their merits.

Claims 30-36 have been added to combine the elected oxide layer species of claim 2 in conjunction with the plated layer being formed by galvannealing, original claims 6-9, and the composition claims 10-12. Since claims 6-12 were identified by the Examiner as being generic, claims 30-36 should also be examined on their merits.

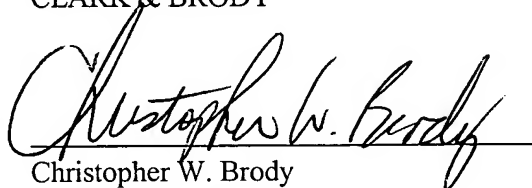
In light of the election of the Group I invention and the species of claims 2 and 3, an early examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fee deficiency or credit any fee overpayment to deposit account no. 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,

CLARK & BRODY

By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christopher W. Brody", written over a horizontal line.

Christopher W. Brody
Reg. No. 33,613

1750 K Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202-835-1111
Facsimile: 202-835-1755
Docket No.: 12014-0023
Date: July 6, 2004